

Conduct

321.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes standards of conduct that are consistent with the values and mission of this department and are expected of its members. The standards contained in this policy are not intended to be an exhaustive list of requirements and prohibitions but they do identify many of the important matters concerning member conduct. Members are also subject to provisions contained throughout this manual as well as any additional guidance on conduct that may be disseminated by the Department or the member's supervisors.

This policy applies to all employees (full- and part-time), reserve officers and volunteers.

321.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Formal investigation - The process of an investigation ordered by a commanding officer during which the questioning of an officer is intended to gather evidence of misconduct which may be the basis for filing charges seeking his or her removal, discharge or suspension in excess of three days (50 ILCS 725/2).

Informal inquiry - A meeting by supervisory or command personnel with an officer upon whom an allegation of misconduct has come to the attention of such supervisory or command personnel, the purpose of which meeting is to mediate a citizen complaint or discuss the facts to determine whether a formal investigation should be commenced.

Interrogation - The questioning of an officer pursuant to the formal investigation procedures of the respective state agency or local governmental unit in connection with an alleged violation of such agency's or unit's rules which may be the basis for filing charges seeking his or her suspension, removal, or discharge. The term does not include questioning (1) as part of an informal inquiry or (2) relating to minor infractions of agency rules which may be noted on the officer's record but which may not in themselves result in removal, discharge or suspension in excess of three days (50 ILCS 725/2).

Officer - Any peace officer, as defined by Section 2-13 of the Criminal Code of 2012 (720 ILCS 5/2-13), as now or hereafter amended, who is employed by any unit of local government or a state college or university, including supervisory and command personnel, any park police officer as defined under the Park District Police Act (70 ILCS 1325/1), and any pay-grade investigator for the Secretary of State as defined in Section 14-110 of the Illinois Pension Code (40 ILCS 5/14-110), including Secretary of State sergeants, lieutenants, commanders and investigator trainees. The term does not include crossing guards, parking enforcement personnel, traffic wardens or employees of any State's Attorney's office (50 ILCS 725/2).

Police administrative proceeding - Any non-judicial hearing which is authorized to recommend, approve, or order the suspension, removal or discharge of an officer.

Dolton Police Department

Policy Manual

Conduct

321.2 DISCIPLINE POLICY

The continued employment of every employee of this department shall be based on conduct that reasonably conforms to the guidelines set forth herein. Failure of any employee to meet the guidelines set forth in this policy, whether on-duty or off-duty, may be cause for disciplinary action.

An employee's off-duty conduct shall be governed by this policy to the extent that it is related to act(s) that may materially affect or arise from the employee's ability to perform official duties or to the extent that it may be indicative of unfitness for his/her position.

321.3 CONDUCT WHICH MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINE

The following list of causes for disciplinary action constitutes a portion of the disciplinary standards of this department. This list is not intended to cover every possible type of misconduct and does not preclude the recommendation of disciplinary action for specific action or inaction that is detrimental to efficient department service:

321.3.1 ATTENDANCE

- (a) Leaving job to which assigned during duty hours without reasonable excuse and proper permission and approval.
- (b) Unexcused or unauthorized absence or tardiness on scheduled day(s) of work.
- (c) Failure to report to work or to place of assignment at time specified and fully prepared to perform duties without reasonable excuse.
- (d) Failure to notify the Department within 24 hours of any change in residence address, home phone number, or marital status.

321.3.2 CONDUCT

- (a) Unauthorized or unlawful fighting, threatening or attempting to inflict unlawful bodily injury on another.
- (b) Initiating any civil action for recovery of any damages or injuries incurred in the course and scope of employment without first notifying the Chief of Police of such action.
- (c) Using department resources in association with any portion of an independent civil action. These resources include, but are not limited to, personnel, vehicles, equipment and non-subpoenaed records.
- (d) Engaging in horseplay resulting in injury or property damage or the reasonable possibility thereof.
- (e) Unauthorized possession of, loss of or damage to department property or the property of others, or endangering it through unreasonable carelessness or maliciousness.
- (f) Failure of any employee to report activities on their own part or the part of any other employee where such activities may result in criminal prosecution or discipline under this policy.

Dolton Police Department

Policy Manual

Conduct

- (g) Failure of any employee to report activities that have resulted in official contact by any other law enforcement agency.
- (h) Using or disclosing one's status as an employee with the Department in any way that could reasonably be perceived as an attempt to gain influence or authority for non-department business or activity.
- (i) The use of any information, photograph, video or other recording obtained or accessed as a result of employment with the Department for personal or financial gain or without the express authorization of the Chief of Police or a designee.
- (j) Seeking restraining orders, no contact orders, orders of protection or similar court orders against individuals encountered in the line of duty without the express permission of the Chief of Police.
- (k) Discourteous, disrespectful or discriminatory treatment of any member of the public or any member of this department.
- (l) Unwelcome solicitation of a personal or sexual relationship while on-duty or through the use of one's official capacity.
- (m) Engaging in on-duty sexual relations including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse, excessive displays of public affection or other sexual contact.

321.3.3 DISCRIMINATION

- (a) Discriminate against any person because of age, race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, marital status, physical or mental disability or medical condition.

321.3.4 INTOXICANTS

- (a) Reporting for work or being at work following the use of intoxicants where such use may impair the employee's ability to perform assigned duties or where there is an immediate suspicion of ineffectiveness during public contact resulting from the use of intoxicants.
- (b) Unauthorized possession or use of, or attempting to bring intoxicants to the work site, except as authorized in the performance of an official assignment. An employee who is authorized to consume intoxicants is not permitted to do so to such a degree that it may impair on-duty performance.
- (c) Reporting for work or being at work following the use of a "controlled substance" or any drug (whether legally prescribed or otherwise) where such use may impair the employee's ability to perform assigned duties.
- (d) Unauthorized possession, use of, or attempting to bring a controlled substance or other illegal drug to any work site.

321.3.5 PERFORMANCE

Dolton Police Department

Policy Manual

Conduct

- (a) Unauthorized sleeping during on-duty time or assignments.
- (b) Careless workmanship resulting in spoilage or waste of materials or work of an unacceptable nature as applicable to the nature of the work assigned.
- (c) Unsatisfactory work performance including, but not limited to, failure, incompetence, inefficiency or delay in performing and/or carrying out proper orders, work assignments or instructions of supervisors without a reasonable and bona fide excuse.
- (d) Concealing, attempting to conceal, removing or destroying defective or incompetent work.
- (e) Disobedience or insubordination to constituted authorities, including refusal or deliberate failure to carry out or follow lawful directives and orders from any supervisor or person in a position of authority.
- (f) The wrongful or unlawful exercise of authority on the part of any employee for malicious purpose, personal gain, willful deceit or any other improper purpose.
- (g) Disparaging remarks or conduct concerning duly constituted authority to the extent that such conduct disrupts the efficiency of the Department or subverts the good order, efficiency and discipline of the Department or which would tend to discredit any member thereof.
- (h) Knowingly making false, misleading or malicious statements that are reasonably calculated to harm or destroy the reputation, authority or official standing of the Department or members thereof.
- (i) The falsification of any work related records, the making of misleading entries or statements with the intent to deceive, or the willful and unauthorized destruction and/or mutilation of any department record, book, paper or document.
- (j) Wrongfully loaning, selling, giving away or appropriating any department property for the personal use of the employee or any unauthorized person.
- (k) The unauthorized use of any badge, uniform, identification card or other department equipment or property for personal gain or any other improper purpose.
- (l) The receipt or acceptance of a reward, fee or gift from any person for service incident to the performance of the employee's duties (lawful subpoena fees and authorized work permits excepted).
- (m) Any knowing or negligent violation of the provisions of the department manual, operating procedures or other written directive of an authorized supervisor. The policy manual is available to all employees and employees are responsible for reading and becoming familiar with its contents, and are responsible for compliance with the content contained therein.
- (n) Work-related dishonesty, including attempted or actual theft of department property, services or the property of others, or the unauthorized removal or possession of department property or the property of another person.

Dolton Police Department

Policy Manual

Conduct

- (o) Criminal, dishonest, infamous or notoriously disgraceful conduct adversely affecting the employee/employer relationship whether on- or off-duty.
- (p) Failure to disclose or misrepresenting material facts, or the making of any false or misleading statement on any application, examination form or other official document, report or form, or during the course of any work-related investigation.
- (q) Failure to take reasonable action while on-duty and when required by law, statute, resolution or approved department practices or procedures.
- (r) Associating with or joining a criminal gang, organized crime and/or criminal syndicate when a department member knew or reasonably should have known of the criminal nature of the organization. This includes any organization involved in a definable criminal activity or enterprise, except as specifically directed and authorized by the Department.
- (s) Offer or acceptance of a bribe or gratuity.
- (t) Misappropriation or misuse of public funds.
- (u) Exceeding lawful peace officer powers by unreasonable, unlawful or excessive conduct.
- (v) Unlawful gambling or unlawful betting at any time or any place. Legal gambling or betting under any of the following conditions: while on department premises; at any work site; while on-duty or while in uniform; or while using any department equipment or system. Gambling activity undertaken as part of an officer's official duties and with the express knowledge and permission of a direct supervisor is exempt from this prohibition.
- (w) Substantiated, active, continuing association on a personal rather than official basis with a person or persons who engage in or are continuing to engage in serious violations of state or federal laws, where the employee has or reasonably should have knowledge of such criminal activities, except where specifically directed and authorized by the Department.
- (x) Solicitations, speeches or distribution of campaign literature for or against any political candidate or position while on duty, on department property or while in any way representing him/herself as a member of this agency, except as expressly authorized by the Chief of Police.
- (y) Engaging in political activities during assigned working hours except as expressly authorized by the Chief of Police.
- (z) Violating any misdemeanor or felony statute.
- (aa) Any other on-duty or off-duty conduct which any employee knows or reasonably should know is unbecoming a member of the Department or which is contrary to good order, efficiency or morale, or which tends to reflect unfavorably upon the Department or its members.
- (ab) Any failure or refusal of an employee to properly perform the function and duties of an assigned position.

Dolton Police Department

Policy Manual

Conduct

- (ac) Failure to maintain required and current licenses (e.g., driver's license) and certifications (e.g., first aid).
- (ad) Giving false or misleading statements or misrepresenting or omitting material information to a supervisor, or other person in a position of authority, in connection with any investigation or in the reporting of any department-related business.

321.3.6 SAFETY

- (a) Failure to observe posted rules, signs, and written or oral safety instructions while on-duty and/or within department facilities or to use required protective clothing or equipment.
- (b) Knowingly failing to report any on-the-job or work-related accident, injury, or illness within 24 hours.
- (c) Substantiated employee record of unsafe or improper driving habits or actions in the course of employment.
- (d) Failure to maintain good physical condition sufficient to adequately and safely perform law enforcement duties.
- (e) Any personal action contributing to involvement in a preventable traffic collision, or other unsafe or improper driving habits or actions in the course of employment.
- (f) Violating departmental safety standards or safe working practices.

321.3.7 SECURITY

- (a) Unauthorized, intentional release of designated confidential information, materials, data, forms or reports.

321.3.8 SUPERVISION RESPONSIBILITY

- (a) Failure of a supervisor to take appropriate action to ensure that employees adhere to the policies and procedures of this department and the actions of all personnel comply with all laws.
- (b) Failure of a supervisor to timely report known misconduct of an employee to his/her immediate supervisor or to document such misconduct appropriately or as required by policy.
- (c) The unequal or disparate exercise of authority on the part of a supervisor toward any employee for malicious or other improper purpose.

321.4 INVESTIGATION OF DISCIPLINARY ALLEGATIONS

Regardless of the source of an allegation of misconduct, all such matters will be investigated in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy.

Dolton Police Department

Policy Manual

Conduct

321.4.1 WRITTEN REPRIMANDS

Any employee wishing to formally appeal a written reprimand must submit a written request to his/her Division Commander within ten days of receipt of the written reprimand. The Division Commander will then assign the appeal to an uninvolved supervisor of at least one rank above the rank of the supervisor issuing the original written reprimand.

Absent a written stipulation to the contrary, the employee will be provided with an evidentiary hearing before the assigned, uninvolved supervisor within 30 days. The decision of the assigned, uninvolved supervisor to sustain, modify or dismiss the written reprimand shall be considered final.

321.5 POST INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

321.5.1 DIVISION COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon receipt of any completed personnel investigation, the Division Commander of the involved employee shall review the entire investigative file, the employee's personnel file and any other relevant materials.

The Division Commander may make recommendations regarding the disposition of any allegations and the amount of discipline, if any, to be imposed.

- (a) Prior to forwarding recommendations to the Chief of Police, the Division Commander may return the entire investigation to the assigned detective or supervisor for further investigation or action.
- (b) When forwarding any written recommendation to the Chief of Police, the Division Commander shall include all relevant materials supporting the recommendation. Actual copies of an employee's existing personnel file need not be provided and may be incorporated by reference.

321.5.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Upon receipt of any written recommendation for disciplinary action, the Chief of Police shall review the recommendation and all accompanying materials.

The Chief of Police may modify any recommendations and/or may return the file to the Division Commander for further investigation or action.

Once the Chief of Police is satisfied that no further investigation or action is required by staff, the Chief of Police shall determine the amount of discipline, if any, to be imposed. If necessary, the Chief of Police shall file the appropriate charges with the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners as required by law or other applicable guidelines.

321.5.3 ILETSB NOTIFICATION

In the event of an arrest or conviction of any of the specified sections in 50 ILCS 705/6.1, the Chief of Police shall report such arrest or conviction to ILETSB.

Dolton Police Department

Policy Manual

Conduct

321.6 EMPLOYEE RESPONSE

It is the duty and responsibility of every full-time and part-time police officer to report to ILETSB within 30 days, and the officer's Chief of Police, of his/her arrest or conviction for an offense identified in 50 ILCS 705/6.1. Any full-time or part-time police officer who knowingly makes, submits, causes to be submitted, or files a false or untruthful report to the Board must have his or her certificate or waiver immediately decertified or revoked.

321.7 RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS PRIOR TO DISCIPLINE

In the event that an employee tenders a written retirement or resignation prior to the imposition of discipline, it shall be noted in the file.

The tender of a retirement or resignation by itself shall not serve as grounds for the termination of an investigation or of pending discipline.

321.8 POST INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

In situations resulting in the imposition of a suspension, punitive transfer, demotion, termination of a non-probationary employee, the employee shall have the right to an evidentiary appeal of the Chief of Police's imposition of discipline pursuant to the personnel rules and applicable guidelines, or pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement, or if non-home rule, the procedures outlined in 65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-1, or if civil service, the procedures outlined in 65 ILCS 5/10-1-1.

321.9 DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES

In the event that a probationary employee is terminated solely for unsatisfactory performance or the failure to meet department standards, the employee shall have no right to appeal and the following shall be considered:

- (a) Termination of a probationary employee for such failure to pass probation shall be so reflected in the employee's personnel file.
- (b) In the event that a probationary employee is disciplined or terminated for misconduct, the employee shall only be entitled to appeal the decision in the same manner as set forth by law. This appeal process may be held prior to or within a reasonable time after the imposition of discipline.
- (c) At all times during any investigation of allegations of misconduct involving a probationary officer, such officer shall be afforded all procedural rights set forth in applicable Department policies.
- (d) A probationary employee's appeal of disciplinary action shall be limited to an opportunity for the employee to attempt to establish that the underlying allegations should not be sustained. Nothing in this policy or procedure, however, should be construed to establish any sort of property interest in or right to the employee's continuation of employment.
- (e) The burden of proof for any probationary employee's appeal of disciplinary action shall rest with the employee and will require proof by a preponderance of the evidence.

Dolton Police Department

Policy Manual

Conduct

- (f) In the event that a probationary employee meets his/her burden of proof in such a disciplinary appeal, the Department shall remove all reference to the underlying allegations of misconduct from the employee's personnel file.
- (g) In the event that a probationary employee fails to meet his/her burden of proof in such a disciplinary appeal, the employee shall have no further right to appeal beyond the Chief of Police.